

Love and Bilger Tin Shop
150 West California Street
Jacksonville
Jackson County
Oregon

HABS No. ORE-97

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PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY HABS No. ORE-97

LOVE AND BILGER TIN SHOP

Location: 150 West California Street, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The tin shop on the north side of California Street was originally part of a block known as "Kennedy's Row," where Matthew G. Kennedy had a tin shop until 1856. The original structure was evidently quite large,¹ but subsequent reconstructions reduced the block to a series of independent store buildings. It served a number of purposes in addition to Kennedy's store. In 1856, the County Commissioners paid Kennedy \$153.32 for office space rented by the County Auditor and Probate Judge.² Before the jail was completed, the county rented "the Block House situated on the Lot in the rear of Kennedy's Block, to be used for the purposes of a jail at the rate of one hundred dollars per month payable in County Warrants as long as the Commissioners desire to keep it."³ Kennedy agreed to make alterations, including the laying of a floor of solid sleepers and the installation of six ring bolts attached to the floor.

Late in 1856, Kennedy began to sell parts of his block. In August of that year the westernmost lot, "known as the Tin Shop," was sold to John Love and John Bilger,⁴ who in 1857, were advertising a tin-plate and sheet-iron works on California Street.⁵ In 1858 James Cluggage gave Love and Bilger a deed to clear their title to the land.⁶

John Love was particularly prominent among the early settlers in Jacksonville. He served on the Board of Trustees when the town government was first organized and on the committee that drew up the by-laws incorporating the town.⁷ In 1861, he served with J.A. Brunner on the committee that obtained plans for a building to house the Recorder's Office and town fire station;⁸ the following year he was appointed to a committee that examined and approved the new plat for the town.⁹

The present building was probably constructed after 1856--since it is not shown on the Kuchel and Dressel lithograph.¹⁰ In January, 1859, the Jacksonville Herald advertised the shop in a fireproof brick building on California Street, indicating that the present structure was built by then.¹¹ In May of 1861, Love and Bilger granted Louis and Solomon

Sachs a half interest in the "stone and brick wall being the East wall of our Store house on California Street" and a half interest in the ground under the wall.¹²

The building is now used as a bakery.

FOOTNOTES

1

It is illustrated on Kuchel and Dressel, "Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon T[erritory]," 1856. This view of the town was distributed locally by W.W. Fowler and C.C. Beekman.

2

Jackson County Commissioners' Journals, July 9, 1856.

3

Ibid., July 9, 1856.

4

Jackson County Deeds, August 14, 1856.

5

Jacksonville Herald, October 10, 1857.

6

Ibid., April 5, 1858.

7

Town of Jacksonville Board of Trustees' Minutes, December 17, 1860. These Minutes are part of Oregon Historical Society, MSS 916, Box 5, Vol. II.

8

Ibid., September 21, 1861.

9

Ibid., February 1, 1862.

10

The earlier Kennedy's Tin Shop is illustrated on the lithograph; since that building occupied the site of Love and Bilger's shop, the latter postdates the lithograph.

11

Jacksonville Herald, January 29, 1859

12

Jackson County Deeds, May 31, 1861.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: The entire building consists of one story.
2. Number of bays: The main (south) facade is three bays wide.
3. Layout, shape: The building is rectangular; it is deeper than it is wide.
4. Wall construction, finish, and color: The facade is brick, now painted white.
5. Openings: The three openings are arched, with brick piers sitting on a continuous stone sill. The piers have no bases; their capitals consist of a course of headers on edge supporting a course of stretchers, each of which projects slightly. The archivolt of the semicircular arches are similar in form to the capitals of the piers--a course of headers on edge is surrounded by a course of headers laid flat. The tympanums have been filled in with brick. The lower openings have been filled in with wooden panels to the level of the window sills. The central doorway contains double doors. Each leaf consists of two glazed panes above a small panelled section. A wooden awning supported by iron brackets runs across the facade.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape: The roof is flat, sloping slightly downward to the north.
 - b. Cornice: Above a frieze of five courses of bricks the cornice has a course of projecting bricks, a dentil course, another projecting course, a two-course flat band, and a capping course. The entablature does not span the entire building; it is returned onto the face. The parapet above is divided into five sections--at each end there is a square pier with a recessed panel; in the center, a section projects upward from the flat parapet. A brick course caps both the parapet and the central panel.

B. Description of Interior:

The interior has been remodelled as a bakery.

C. Site and Surroundings:

The main facade faces West California Street. The structure is built on the north lot line. On the west there is a detached, one-story, frame building; on the east, a one-story, brick commercial building.

D. Original Appearance:

Originally, all three facade openings were probably doors similar to the present center door. The tympanums were probably glazed with fanlights.

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